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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF: Masahiro Yasuda)
SERIAL NO.: 10/796,729) Group Art Unit: 3732
FILED: 03/09/2004) Examiner: Todd E. Manahan
FOR: HAIR CLIP)

RESPONSE

The Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Alexandria Virginia 22313-1450

I certify that this document is being deposited on October 11, 2005 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Vasilios D. Dossas
Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence
Vasilios Dossas
Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Sir:

This paper is a response to the office action mailed on July 12, 2005.

In that action, the examiner objects to the drawings and the information disclosure statement and rejects claims 1, 2, 10-23, 26 and 27 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yasuda US Design Patent No. D464,465 in view of Yasuda US Patent No. 6,192,894. The examiner also rejects claim 24 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over the above-identified references and further in view of Reiner US Patent No. 2,979,060.

In response to the Examiner's objections, the applicant submits a replacement sheet of drawings under separate cover and a copy of British reference No. 992,417 which corresponds to the untranslated French reference. Accordingly, the applicant asserts that the drawings comply with 37 CFR § 1.121(d) that the information disclosure statement complies with 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2). The

applicant respectfully requests that the examiner make the French reference and the appended British reference of record in this application.

The applicant respectfully traverses the examiners rejection of the pending claims over the cited references. The cited Yasuda '894 reference corresponds to Japanese Publication No. P2000-333721A, referenced in lines 1-2, page 3 of the present specification.

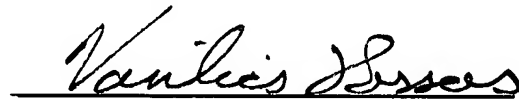
The present invention, as recited in the present claim 1, includes a hinge cover which connects inner side edge portions of the outside hinge ledges of the first hair retainer located at the second end portion side thereof and which covers inner side edge portions of the inside hinge ledges of the second hair retainer. (The inner side edge portions are portions located at the second end portion side of the second hair retainer.) In other words, as clearly shown In Fig. 3, the present invention includes the feature of a hinge cover 7 that covers all of the gap between the outside hinge ledges 3 and 3.

The Yasuda '894 reference does not disclose or suggest this feature of the unique hair clip of the present invention. The Yasuda '465 reference and Reiner references do not overcome this shortcoming of the Yasuda '894 reference. Therefore, these references do not render either separately or collectively the claimed invention, obvious to one skilled in the art.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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